



# Truancy Taskforce Meeting

*Chronic Truancy EdStat*

*September 15, 2015*

# Meeting Overview

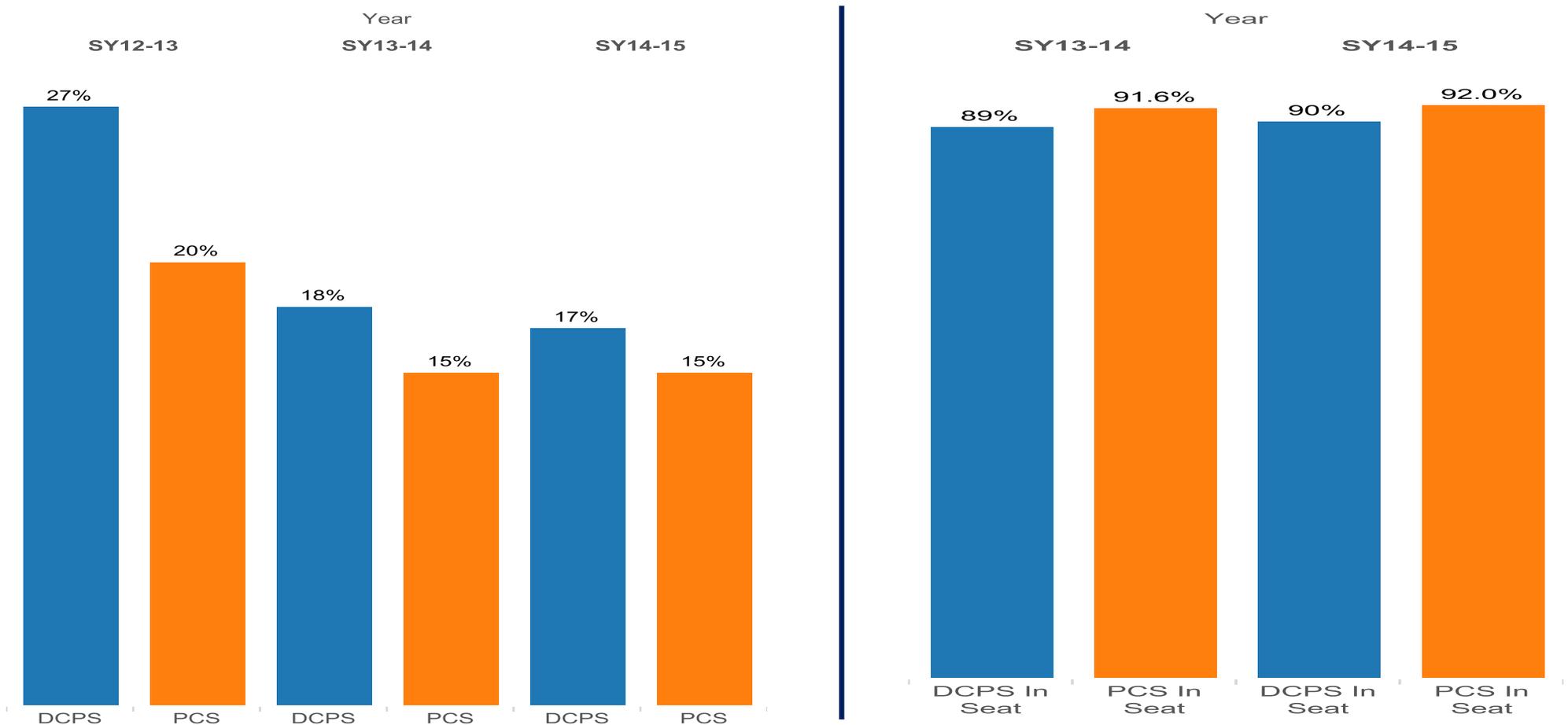


- Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Overview
- Measure: Recap of July EdStat (15 min)
- Measure: Insights from EOY SY14-15 (15mins)
- Monitor: Committee Updates and Discussion (45mins)
  - Data Committee Report
  - Steering Committee Report
  - Program Committee Report
  - Policy Committee Report
- Act: 80/20 (30mins)
- Attendance Awareness Month (10mins)
- Next Steps and Adjournment (5mins)

# Measure: SY14-15 Overall Summary



Overall truancy rates for both DCPS and Public Charter Schools saw a slight decline between SY13-14 and SY14-15 with DCPS truancy moving from 18.2% in SY13-14 to 17.2% in SY14-15. Meanwhile, truancy for the Charter sector moved slightly from 14.89% in SY13-14 to 14.65%. \* Additionally, **in seat attendance continues to rise for both sectors.**



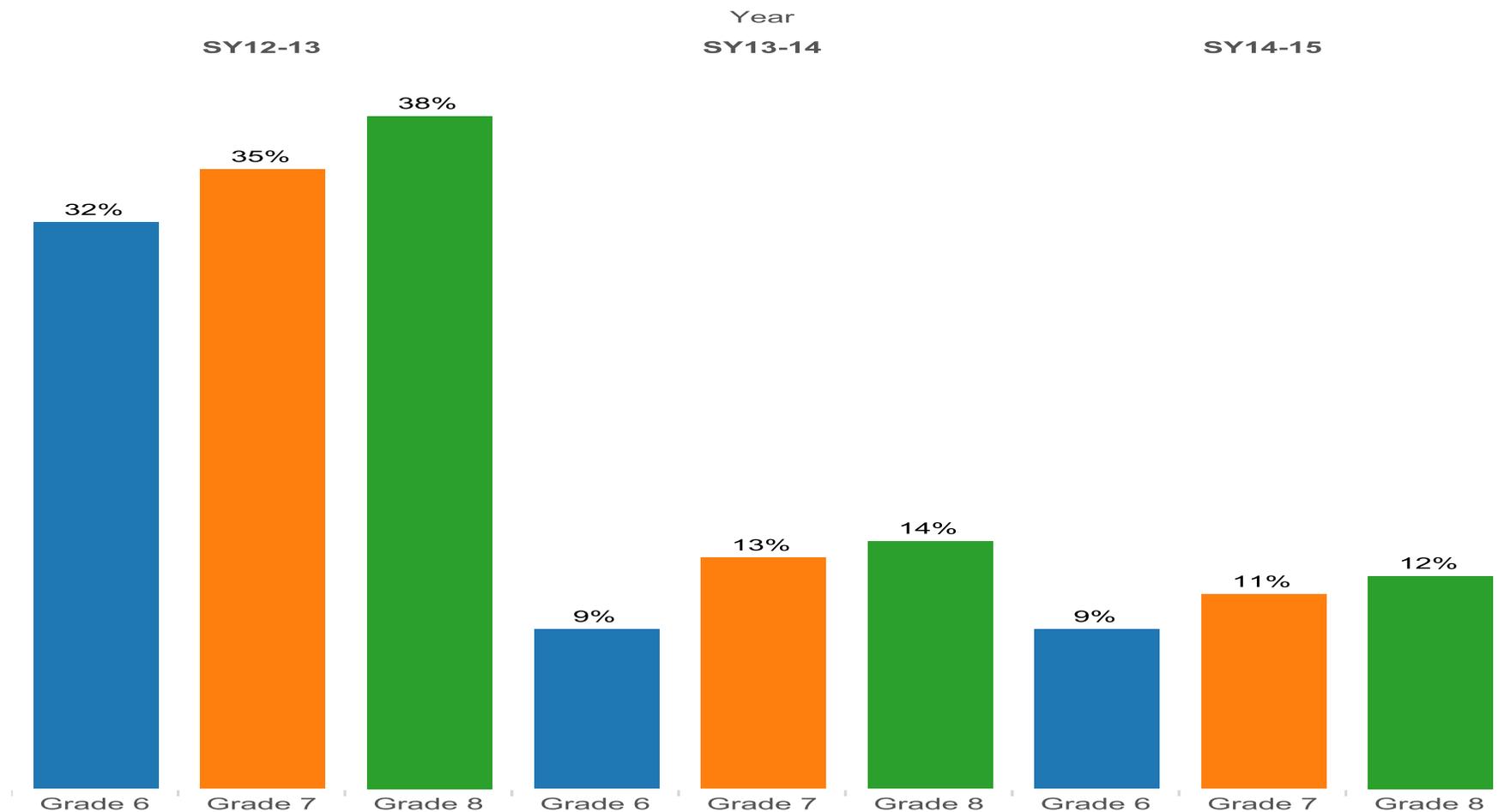
Overall Truancy

In seat Attendance

# Measure: Decrease in Middle Schools



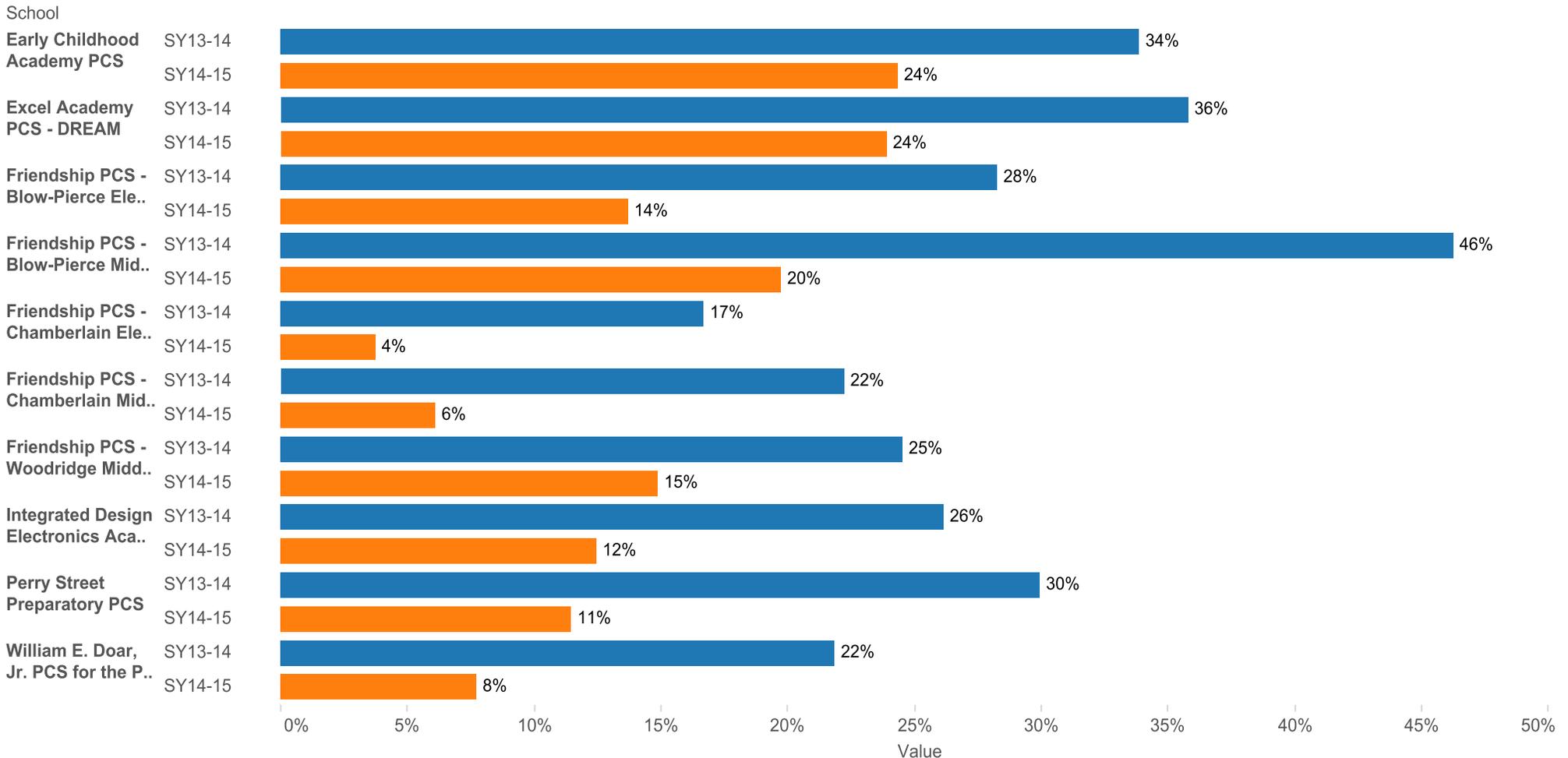
DCPS Middle Schools have seen significant declines in truancy between SY12-13 and SY13-14. During SY14-15, DCPS Middle School truancy continued to show a decline with 6<sup>th</sup> grade remaining stable at 9% for both years and both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade seeing a 2% decrease in SY14-15.



# Measure: PCS Ten Most Improved



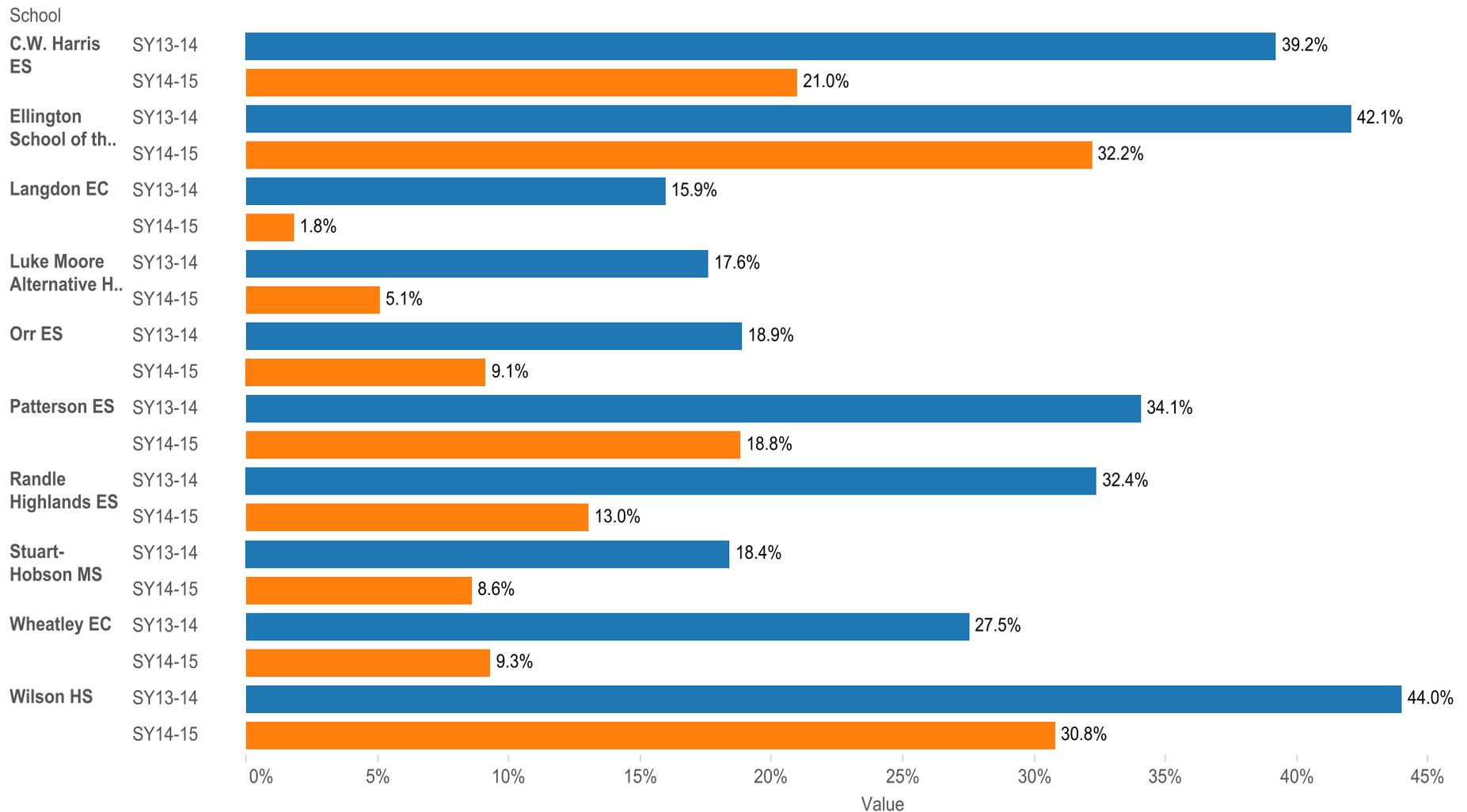
Individual Charter LEAs saw significant improvements in truancy in SY14-15. Most of the improvement was concentrated at LEAs with elementary school students, while \*Friendship PCS, and William E. Doar saw improvement in Middle school grades. Similarly, IDEA PCS saw a decrease in High School truancy.



# Measure: DCPS Ten Most Improved



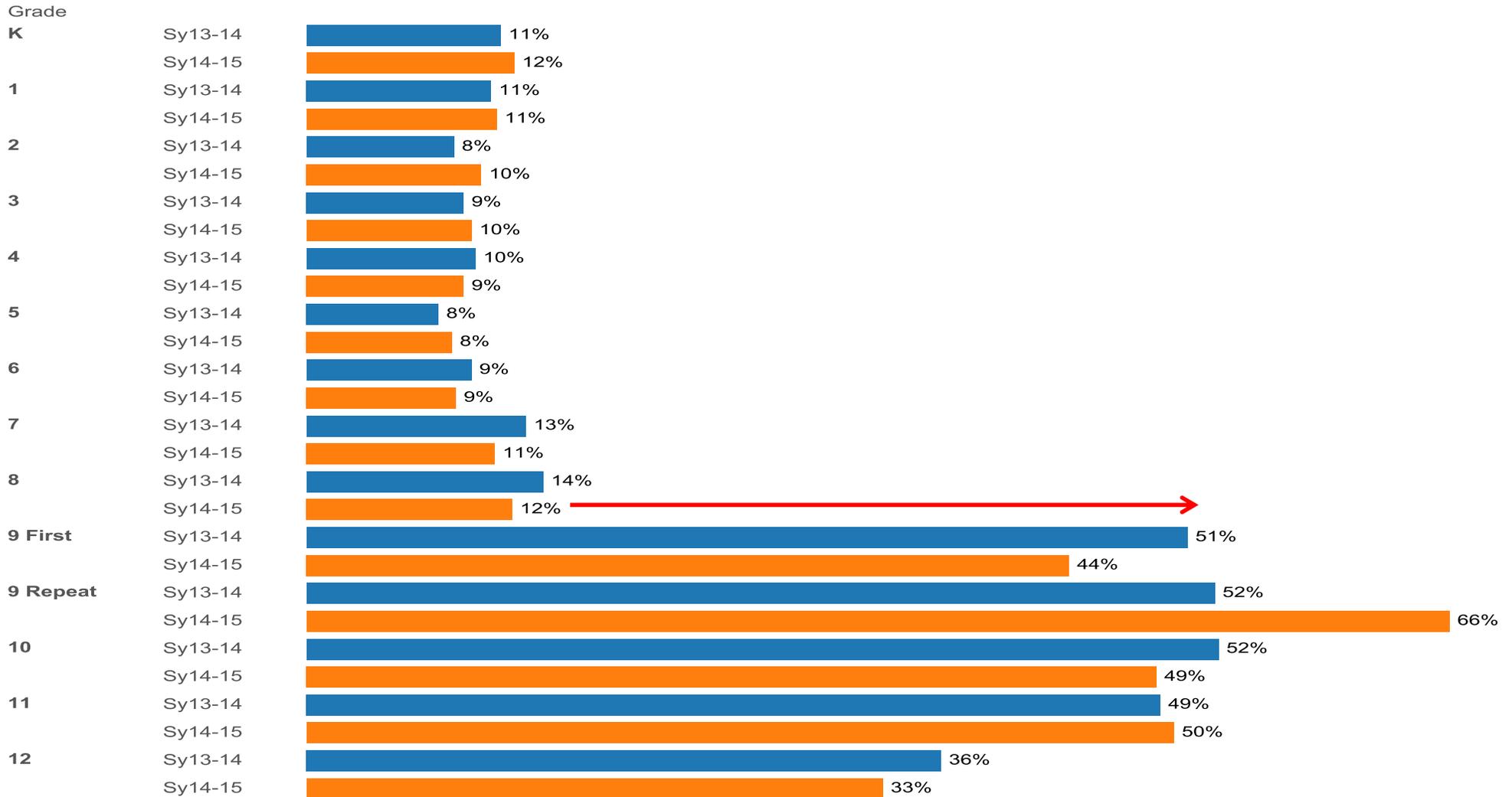
There were a number of DCPS schools that showed improvement in truancy rates during SY14-15. Specifically, **6 out of the top 10 schools showing improvement were elementary schools**, 1 Middle School and 3 high schools showed improvement.



# Measure: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Truancy Trends



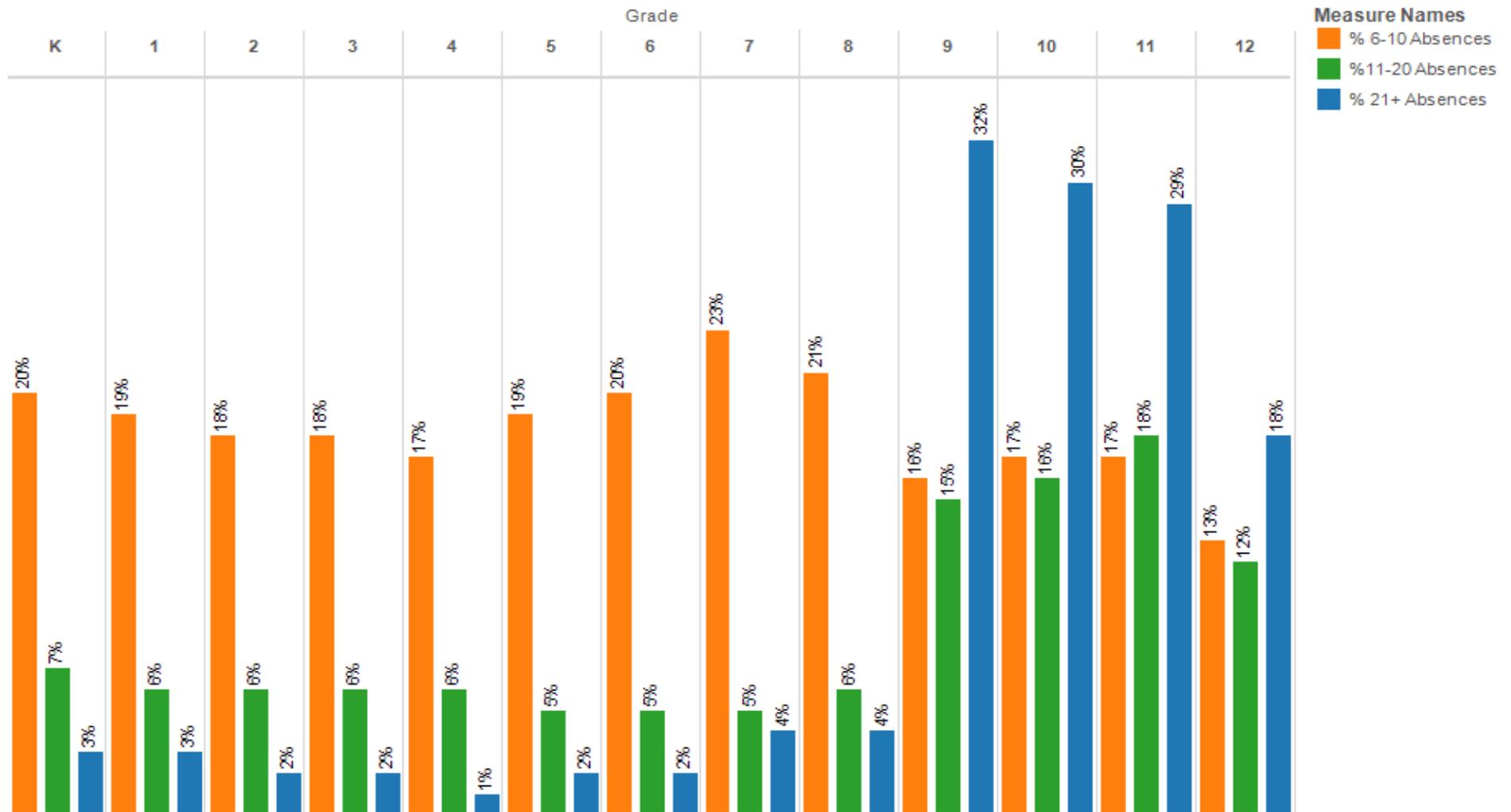
The data shows that truancy more than doubles between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade, with 9<sup>th</sup> grade repeaters showing a significant increase in SY14-15. While the chart below represents all DCPS grades, Charter Schools show the same 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade trend.



# Measure: 21+ Day Absence Trends



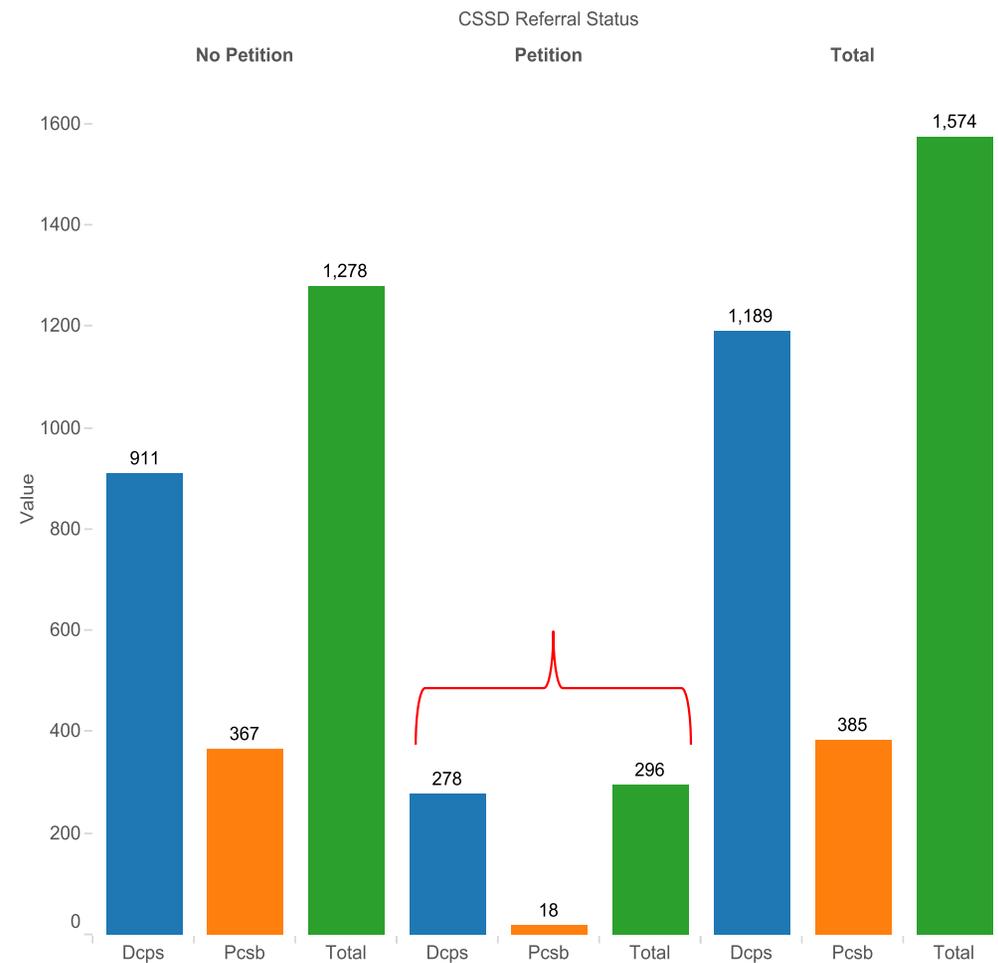
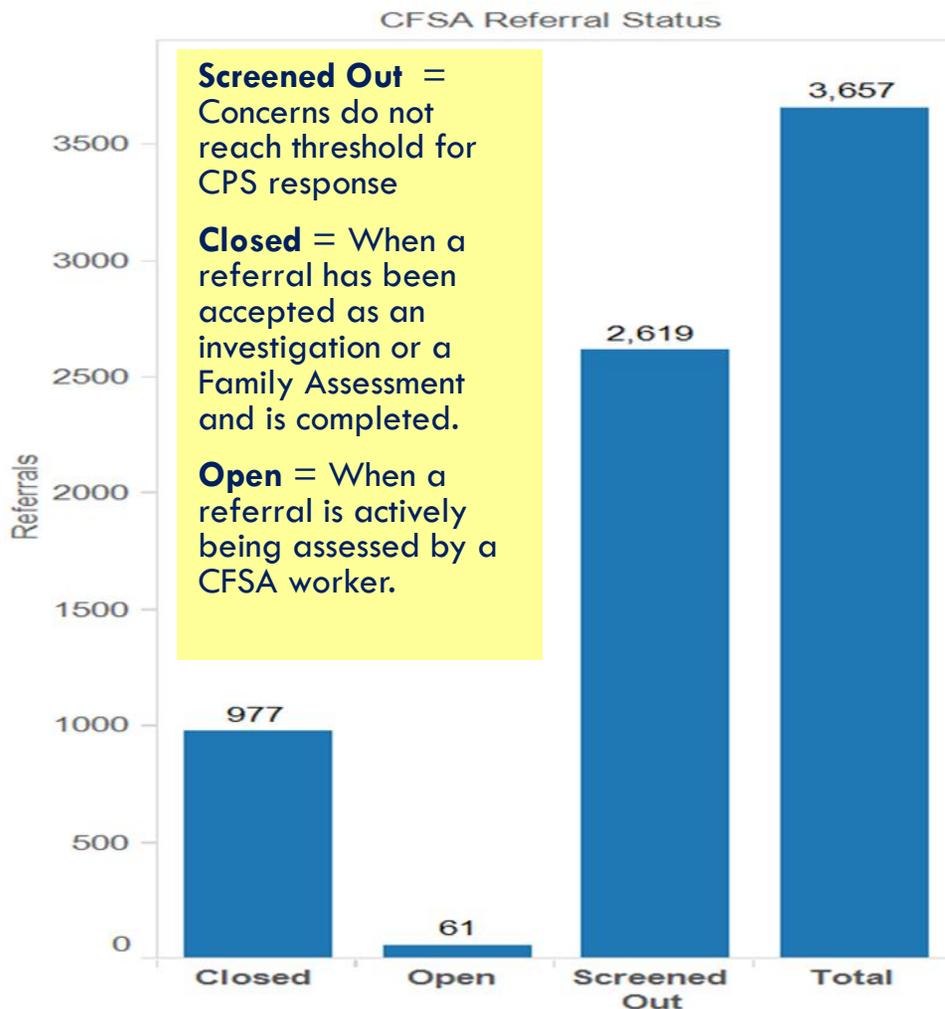
DCPS schools show a dramatic increase in students having 21+ unexcused absences starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Specifically, in SY14-15 on average 3% of students in grades K-8 had 21+ unexcused absences while **32% of students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade had 21+ unexcused absences.**



# Measure: SY14-15 Referral Summary



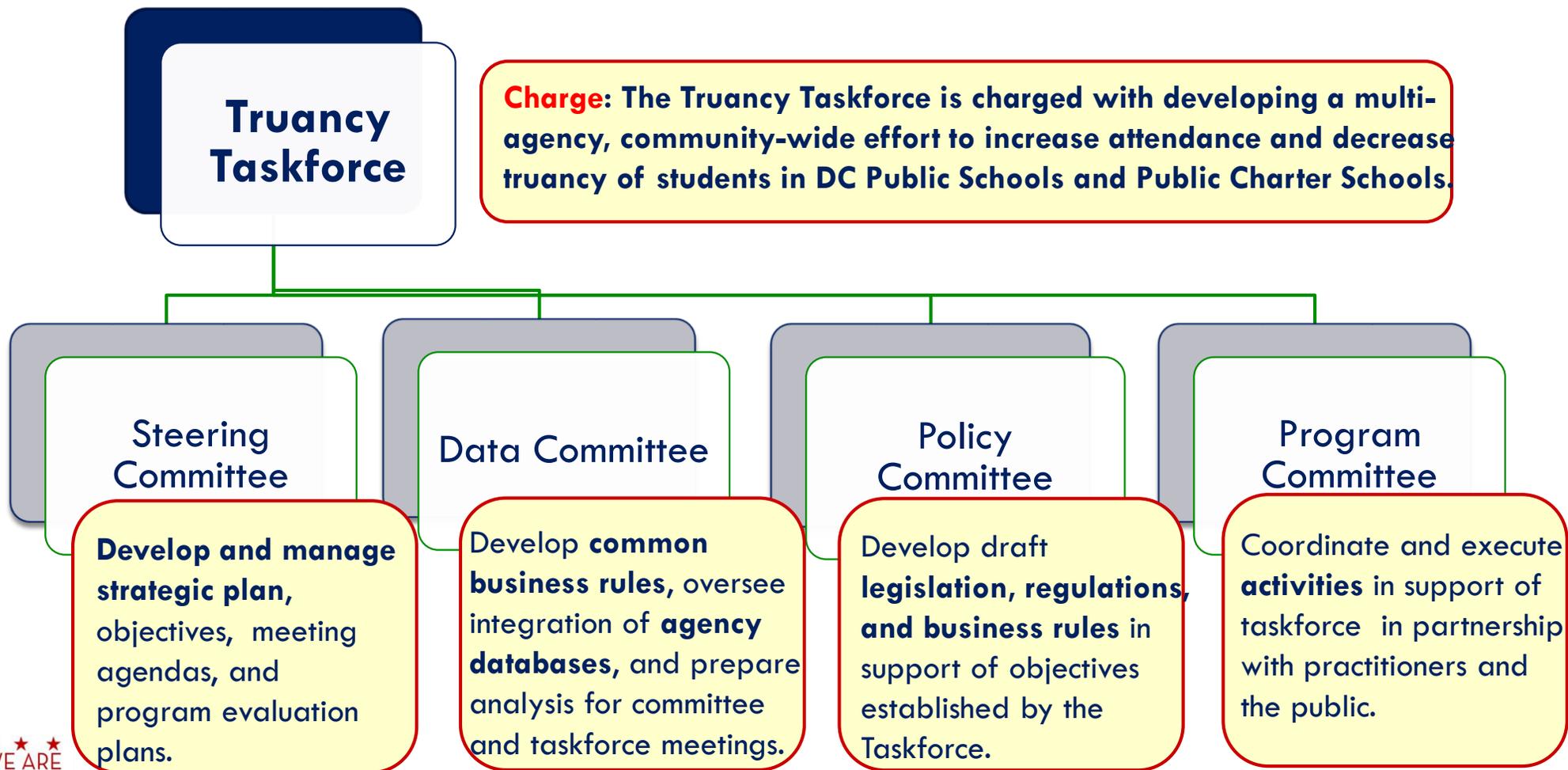
In SY14-15, DCPS referred 80% of the students eligible for a CFSA referral and Public Charters referred approximately 39% of the students eligible for a CFSA referral. Similarly, In SY14-15, DCPS referred 28% of the students eligible for a CSSD referral.



# Monitoring: Committee Structure



In order to take **immediate action**, the Taskforce will work in four committees that report back to the full Taskforce at subsequent meetings.



# Monitor: Steering Committee



The steering committee met on September 9, 2015 in preparation for the taskforce meeting:

- ✓ Discussed the agenda for the taskforce meeting,
- ✓ Reviewed the data committee Q4 report and current baseline indicators,
- ✓ Reviewed the format of the 2012 Truancy Taskforce Strategic Plan and reviewed an outline for an updated Truancy Taskforce Strategic plan.

**Next Steps:** Develop a draft strategic plan to share at the November truancy taskforce meeting.

# Monitor: Data Committee



The truancy data committee met on August 25, 2015 to discuss Q4 and SY14-15 results and a subcommittee met on September 9, 2015 to recommend an universal truancy calculation methodology. The results of the committee to date are as follows:

- ✓ Finalized Q4 and EOY Reports from all the data partners (DCPS, PCSB, CFSA, CSSD and OAG). The full report has been provided to the steering committee and the full taskforce.
  
- ✓ Convened a subcommittee to recommend an updated truancy calculation methodology and proposed business rules across sectors
  - ✓ The group is still reviewing options for statewide reporting that also meets the operational needs of school leaders. The group will have a final recommendation by the November taskforce meeting.

# Monitor: Policy Committee

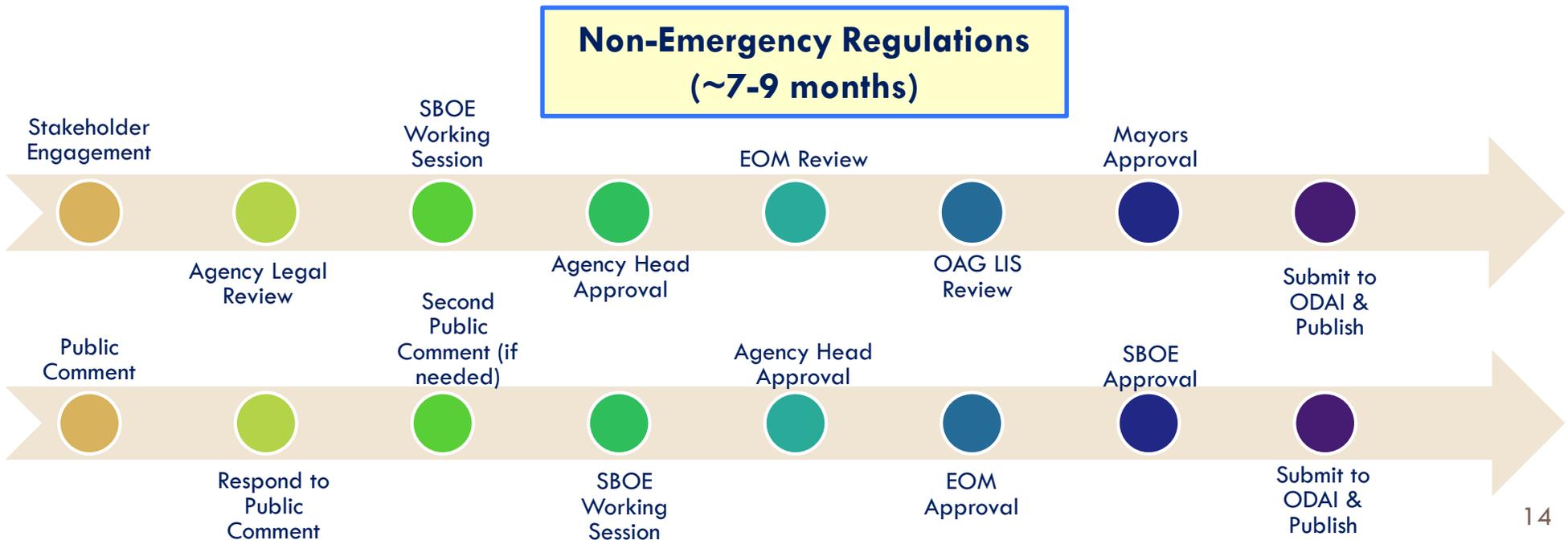
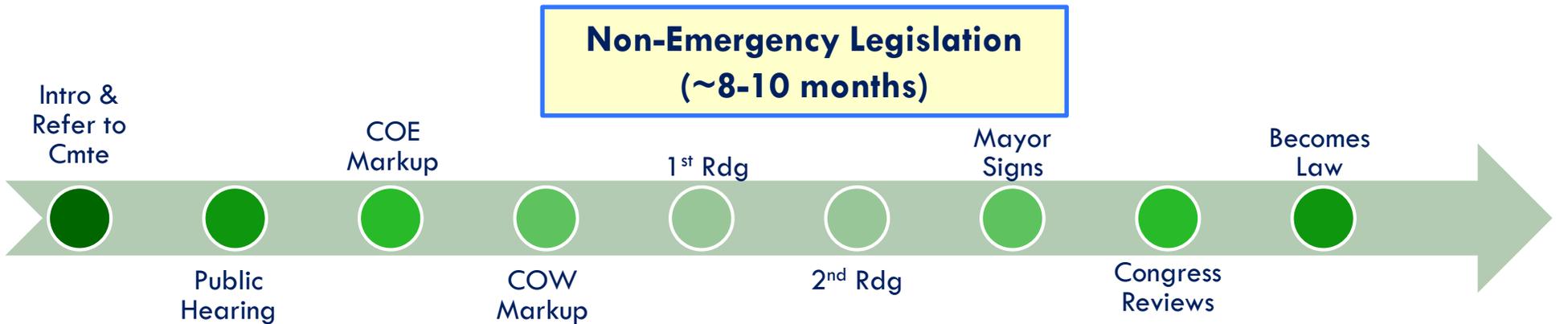


The Policy Committee met four times with the goal of providing recommendations to the Taskforce about the current code and regulations, including the 80/20 rule.

# Monitor: Policy Committee



**Meeting 1 (7/24/15):** Reviewed key provisions of code and regulations and the timelines for changing policy.



# Monitor: Policy Committee



## Meeting 1 (7/24/15): Established a process for collecting Committee feedback on current challenges:

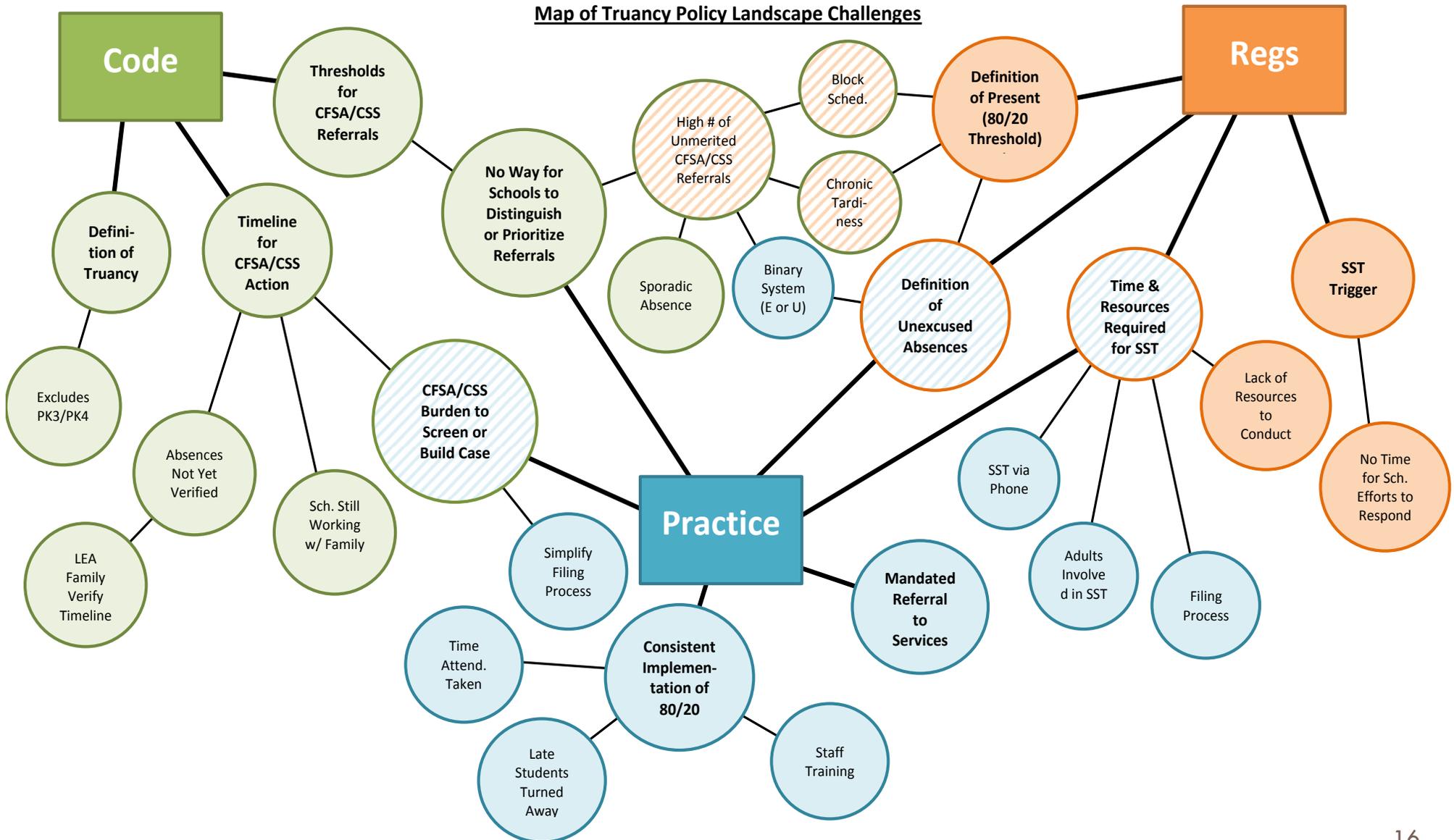
Agency	<b>Identified Problem</b> What isn't working? Include data or anecdotal evidence where available.	Priority: <b>Importance/Need for Change</b> (1-5 scale; 1 is min and 5 is max)	Priority: <b>Urgency</b>	Priority: <b>Perceived Difficulty of Change</b>	Priority: <b>Inter-agency Collab.</b> Required	*Source: <b>Statute</b> *optional	*Source: <b>Reg</b> *optional	*Source: <b>Practice</b> *optional	* <b>Recommended Solution</b> *optional
(EXAMPLE) DME	(EXAMPLE) Inconsistent implementation of 80/20 rule at school level makes evaluation difficult. Want to ensure common practices for marking attendance among educators.	4	5	2	3	NA	NA	X	(EXAMPLE) Reach agreement among LEAs on best practice and disseminate that practice to educators through guidance and/or training at start of school year.

# Monitor: Policy Committee



## Meeting 2 (8/6/15): Reviewed feedback received.

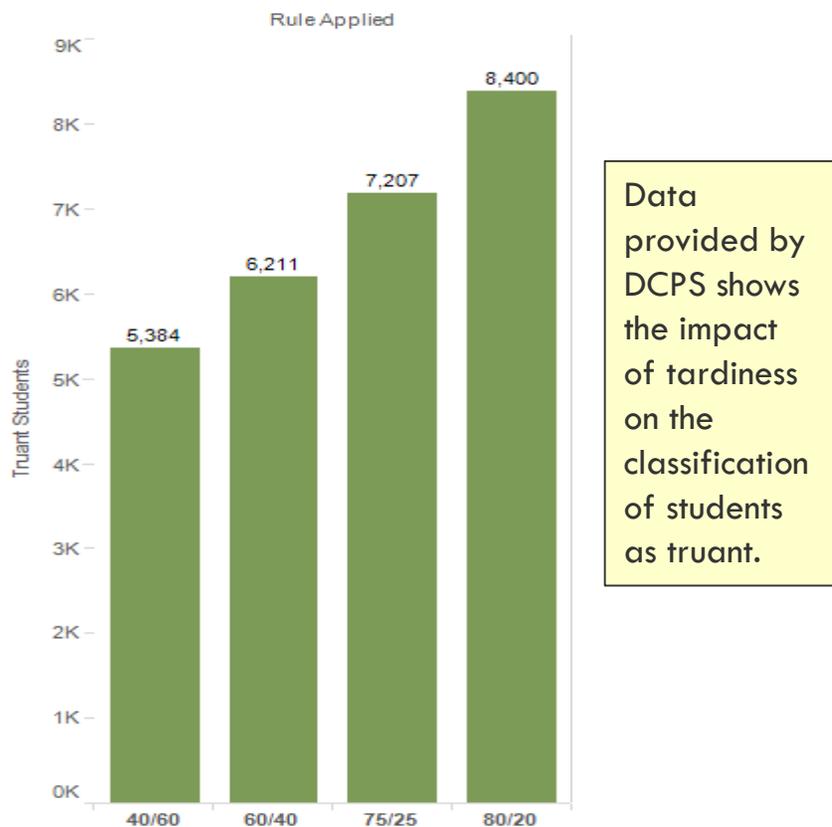
Map of Truancy Policy Landscape Challenges



# Monitor: Policy Committee



## Meeting 3 (8/20/15): Deep dive on the 80/20 Rule.



- If the rule were changed to **75/25**, approx. **1,193 fewer** DCPS students would have been truant in SY14-15. Similarly if the rule were **60/40**, approx. **2,189 fewer** DCPS students would have been truant in SY14-15.

Peer	Policy to be “Truant”
Seattle, WA	Unexcused for <u>50% of day</u> or more.
Charlotte-Meck., NC	A student must be present for more than 50% of the class to be counted present for that class. A student is required to be in attendance for <u>two full periods a day</u> to be counted present for the day ( <u>roughly 33% of the day</u> ).
Miami-Dade, FL	Somewhat similar transit system. Students must attend 2 hours of a school day to be considered present ( <u>roughly 30% of school day</u> ).
Nashville, TN	Students must attend 3.5 hours of a school day to be considered present ( <u>roughly 54% of school day</u> ).
Baltimore, MD	Students are counted present for a full day if they are in school <u>for at least four hours</u> . They are counted present for a half-day if they are in school for two to four hours.



## Meeting 3 (8/20/15): Deep dive on the 80/20 Rule.

- 80/20 was intended to answer the question of how much of the day a student must be present for in order to receive the benefit of their education.
- 80/20 is currently intimately linked with provisions of the code that dictate when referrals to address students' health and safety are made.
- As a result, 80/20 is not only defining presence for receiving an educational benefit, but also what it means to be present from a safety perspective.



## Meeting 4 (9/3/15): Review of recommendations.

The Committee identified a significant number of challenges in the current truancy and attendance policy landscape requiring policy change.

Areas of strong consensus included that:

- ❖ Students and families need *access to social services* prior to referral to CFSA.
- ❖ There is a need to *decouple* keeping a high bar for attendance and ensuring our youth are safe and healthy.
- ❖ The 80/20 rule as currently implemented is *triggering a large number of referrals that don't result in findings*; however, it could be workable with changes in related policies that dictate the consequences, level of resources, and implementation of the rule.
- ❖ CFSA and CSSD referrals should be *prioritized* in some way to triage high-risk cases.
- ❖ Chronic absenteeism and *chronic tardiness* need to be treated differently to avoid unnecessary referrals.

# Monitor: Policy Committee



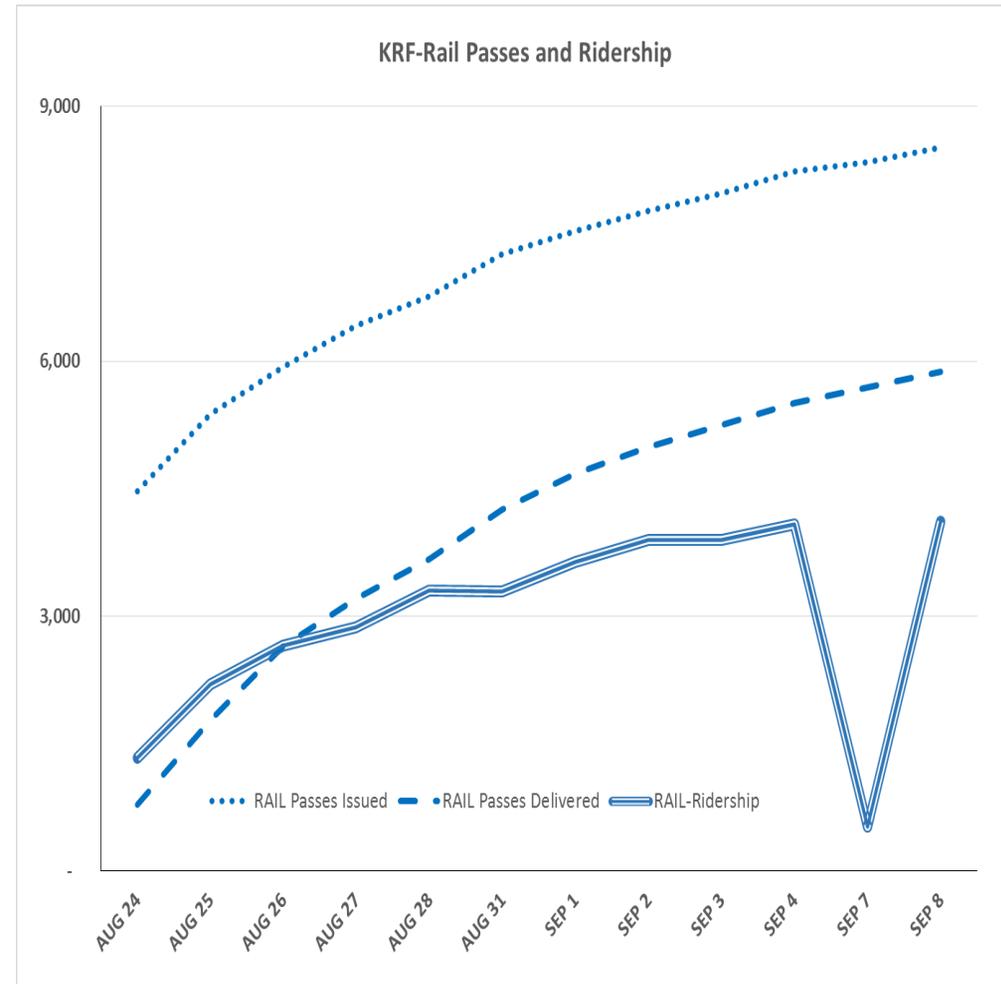
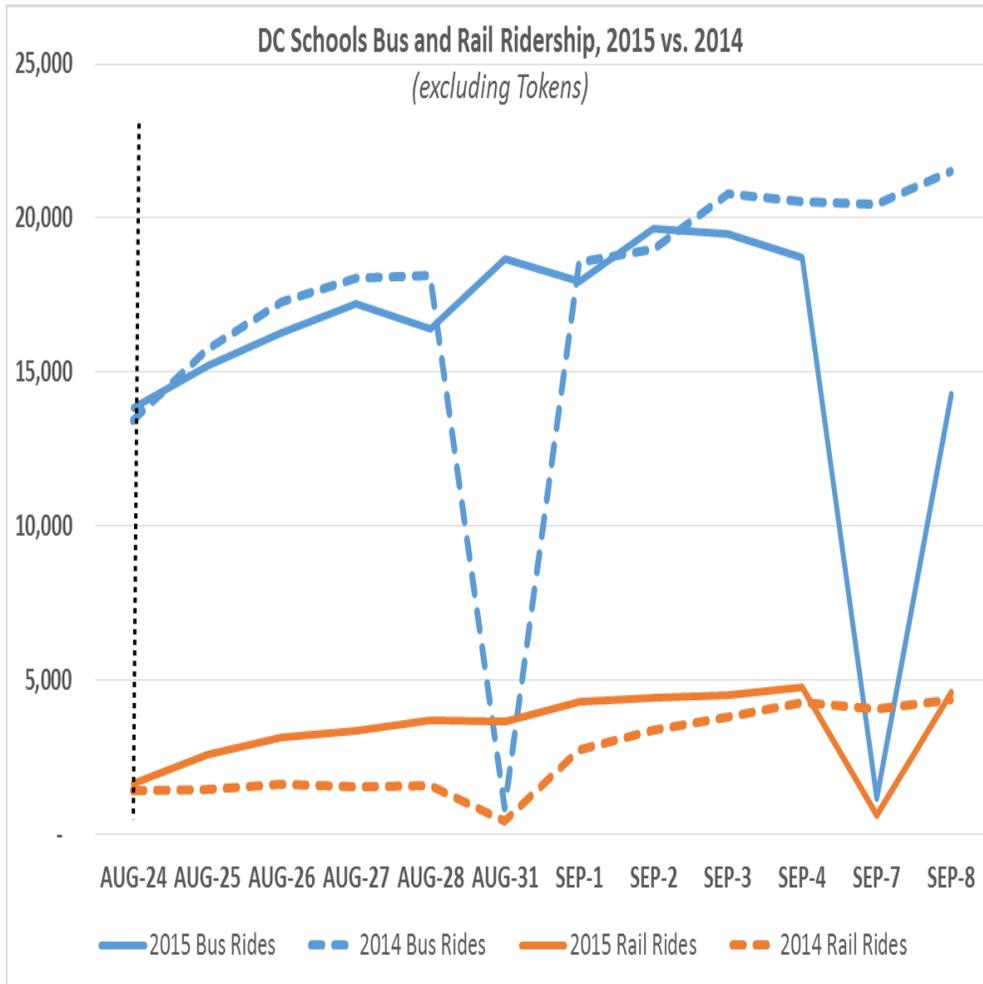
- **Recommendation #1:** Do not change policy in SY 15-16, but prepare revisions to code and regulations to be implemented by SY 16-17.
- **Proposed Action Step:** The **Policy Committee** will develop a detailed set of recommendations by Nov. to communicate changes to LEAs by June 1.

**Pros? Cons?**

# Monitor: Kids Ride Free



The Program Committee supports Kids Ride Free. Preliminary data for Kids Ride Free shows increased ridership. As of September 9, 2015 **8, 515 KRF-Rail passes were issued** and **5,878 delivered**.



# Monitor: Tracking Taskforce Progress



Phase	Task & Deliverable	Steering Committee	Policy	Data Committee	Program Committee	Deadline
Strategic Planning	Develop FY16 Budget Truancy Resource Map	X				Sept. 2015
	Draft Strategic Plan due to Taskforce	X				Nov. 2015
	Develop agendas, meeting dates for upcoming taskforce meetings	X				Ongoing
Data / Program Evaluation	Improve Business Rules (calculation methodology)		X	X		Sept. 2015
	Disaggregate truancy data			X		Sept. 2015
	Develop an evaluation plan for truancy programs			X		Nov. 2015
	Recommend changes to SST survey			X		Nov. 2015
Programming	Launch and implement Kids Ride Free campaign				X	Sept. 2015
	Support Attendance Awareness Month events				X	Sept. 2015
	Catalog truancy programming in schools				X	Nov. 2015
Legislation, Policy, Procedures	Evaluate 80/20 policy, make recommendation	X	X	X		Sept. 2015
	Review, update and recommend changes to attendance regulations		X			Sept. 2015
	Review South Capitol, Attendance and Accountability Act		X			Nov. 2015

# Act : Attendance Awareness Month



## Attendance Awareness Month Activities

- Mayoral Proclamation of September as Attendance Awareness Month
- Launch of Show Up, Stand Out Youth Program on **September 17<sup>th</sup>**
- Release of OSSE Attendance Webinars and Parent Resource Guide
- Promotional Materials on the Importance of School Attendance
- Social Media Campaign: On **September 19<sup>th</sup>** and for the remainder of Sept tweet and post about the importance of attendance. Pre-prepared tweets will be provided!



**#SchoolEverydayDC**

